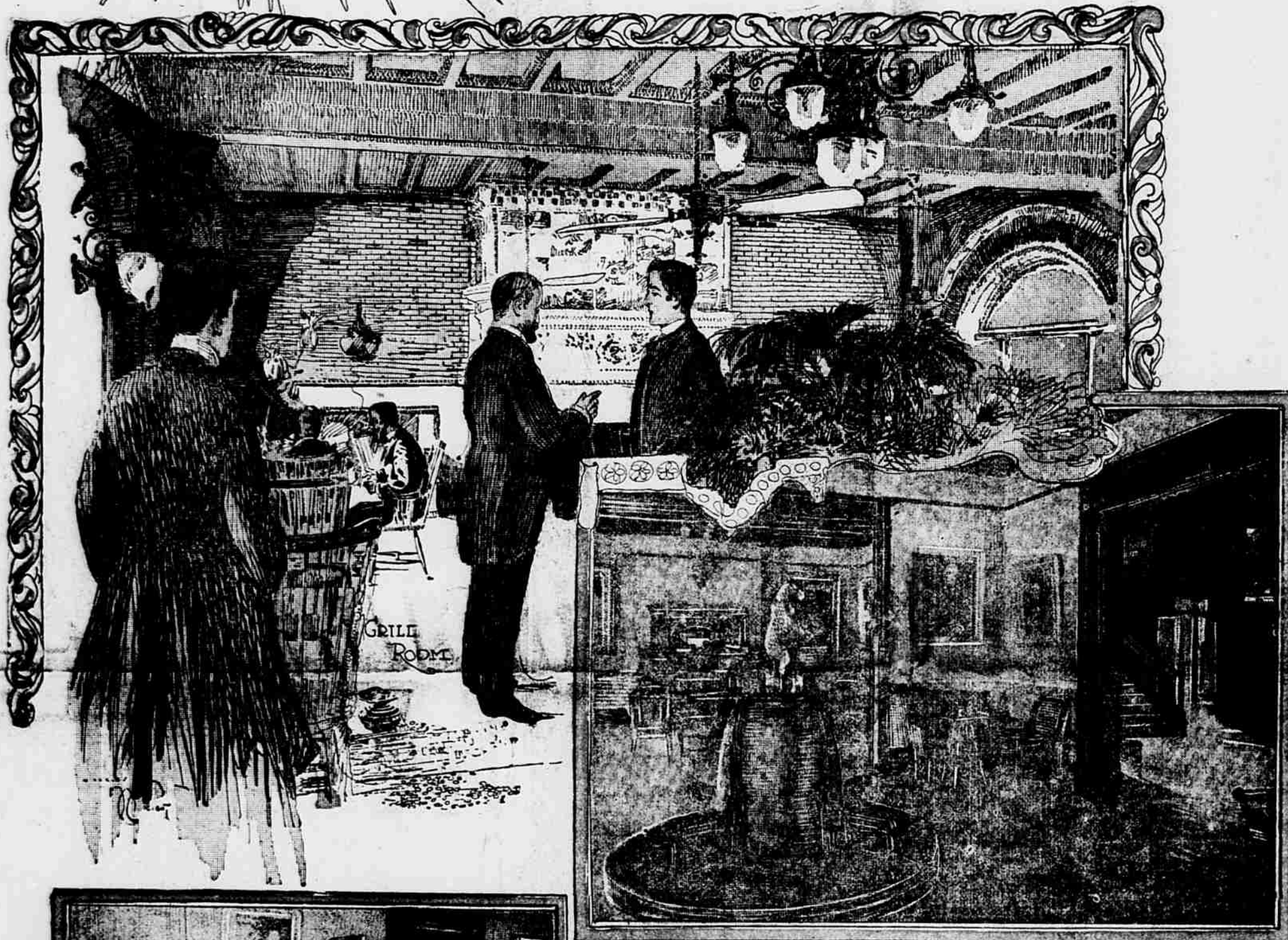
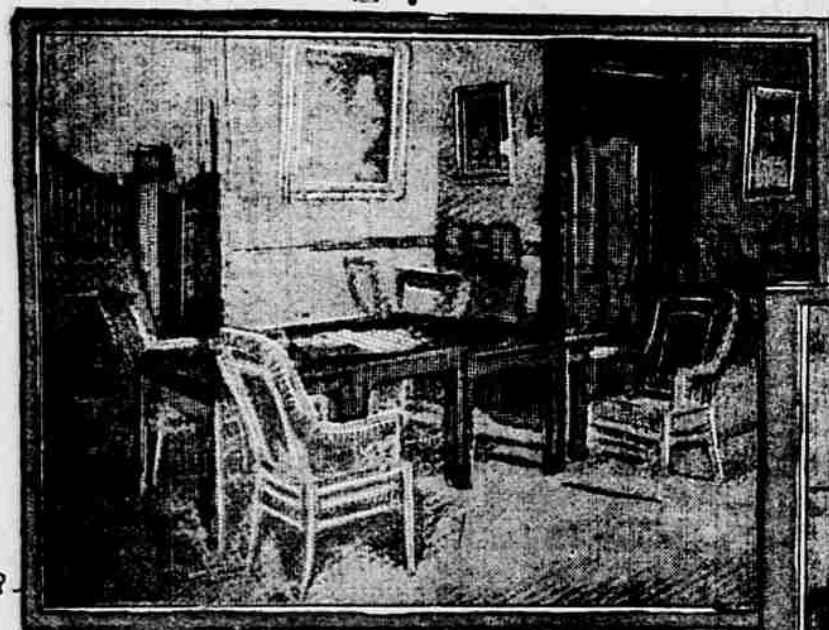


WASHINGTON'S EXCLUSIVE CLUB THE METROPOLITAN.

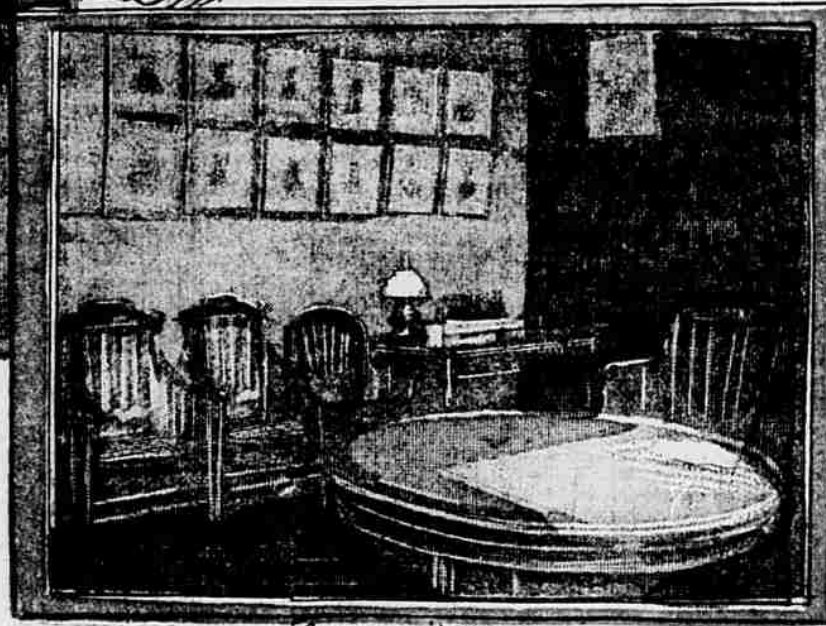
ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC MAGAZINE



GRILL ROOM



ADMIRAL DEWEY'S CREAM TABLE AT THE CLUB



GOVERNOR'S ROOM



Many of the Prominent Members of Washington's Club Will Resign in Retaliation for the Rejection of Major General H. C. Corbin. Those Who Know Something of the Interior Affairs of the Organization Are Laughing Quietly at the "Affront."

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Clubs are, by the nature of their organization, rather private than public institutions, and discussion of what transpires within them is of necessity drawn out sub rosa.

It is very well ascertained, however, that Major General H. C. Corbin was not admitted to membership of the Metropolitan Club of Washington, the swell club of the national capital.

In retaliation for this rejection, a number of leading army officers have withdrawn from membership, and others, it is said, will follow.

Those who know something of the interior affairs of the Metropolitan Club of Washington are laughing quietly at the "affront" sought to be put upon General Corbin.

The complaint against the famous English journalist, Edmund Yates, brought by Thackeray, is a matter of history.

It went the Garlick Club in London, and showed how great influences will fight for their friends in club matters. The controversy between the Corbin and anti-Corbin men in the Metropolitan Club are likely to grow into as famous a controversy

as that among Dickens and Thackeray and Yates.

It is related of a very wealthy man who was elected to Congress a few years ago that the first thing he did when he began his preparation for changing his residence from New York to Washington was to telegraph to a well-known member of the Metropolitan Club asking him to have him elected a member by the time he came to the national capital the first week in December.

MAN WHO RECEIVED TELEGRAM TOLD ABOUT REQUEST.

The man who received the telegram had never heard of the Congressman, and he told about the request.

The result was that the Congressman was never elected to the Metropolitan Club and never will be.

When Thomas F. Walsh, the millionaire mine owner from Colorado, went to Washington to make it his winter home and dangle the old-timers with his wealth and the jewels of his wife and daughter, he was proposed for membership in the Metropolitan.

His name was promptly withdrawn, a

year later, after Mr. Walsh and his wealth had had full opportunity to operate in Washington, and the Washingtonians had learned that Mr. Walsh had the right sort of stuff in him, he was proposed again and permitted himself to be elected unanimously to a club by which he had once been blackballed.

When Major General Henry C. Corbin, Adjutant General of the United States Army, who will in the course of the next three or four years command the army, was considered for membership the other day he was not elected, so that for the first time in its history the Metropolitan is likely soon to be without the General commanding the army on its active list.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EXCLUSIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

The Metropolitan Club is one of the most exclusive clubs in the world, and at the same time one of the most democratic. It will elect a department clerk to membership, if he happens to be a member of one of the old families, without a word.

It will reject the most eminent citizen of the United States if there happens to be some local prejudice against him. In this it is no respecter of persons. Every attaché of a foreign legation finds welcome within its walls. Lord Alfred Douglas was politely asked to withdraw his card almost before he had had an opportunity to look out of the windows of the equipages running up H street.

The denial of membership to General Corbin by a certain element has given rise to a question of whether it is a purely social organization or semi-official in its character. This problem has been going on with in the club for a long period, and it has been suggested that the by-laws of the club should be amended so that the official status of an applicant for membership should be entirely eliminated. The result sought by this would be that the club grant no greater privileges or courtesies to the foreigner than would be extended to an American citizen, and especially one occupying the high rank held by General Corbin.

In club circles this subject has been so sharply discussed that it is said that the club parlor is occupied almost exclusively by the American members, while the foreign and diplomatic contingent usually frequent the "loggia," just across the hall from the parlor. Of course, this may be a mere circumstance, but it has been frequently remarked by the daily habitues of the club.

While it is generally conceded that the Metropolitan Club is the most exclusive association of its kind in Washington, its rules and regulations are, like those of many similar organizations, elastic, and may be stretched to meet certain contingencies.

SENOR QUESADA DENIED MEMBERSHIP AT ONE TIME.

A striking incident is recalled in the case

of Senor Quesada, at present the Minister from Cuba.

A short time ago, before he became the official representative at the national capital, he was denied membership. Now he enjoys the ex-officio membership given to Ambassadors and foreign Ministers.

It is denied that there exists in the club an element seeking to bar out noted persons. Senators, Representatives, army and navy officers, Federal officials, prominent citizens there and elsewhere, have repeatedly been denied admission because they were objectionable to two members of the Board of Governors—two being sufficient to cause rejection. In this club the fifteen governors pass upon the qualifications of applicants.

There appears to be an element in the club intent upon trying to force the issue as to whether the official position shall outweigh all other objections in the case of representatives of foreign Powers and not apply to American officials who are proposed for membership.

The first president of the club was W. W. Corcoran. He was followed by Rear Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers. Then came Rear Admiral John L. Worden. The late Judge John Davis was president from 1893 to 1894. He was succeeded by Admiral George Dyer.

who held office until 1901, when he was succeeded by John A. Kasson. Rear Admiral John A. Walker, retired, is the president now.

The membership includes President Roosevelt, Secretary Root, Secretary Hay, Secretary Moody, Secretary Hitchcock and Attorney General Knox. General Miles, General Schofield, Rear Admiral Schley and many other officers of the army and navy, and departmental officials, some of the latter at present occupying low-grade clerkships.

The membership also includes many distinguished men who are not in official life, but whose wealth, social standing or good fellowship has admitted them to membership in this exclusive organization.

WELL-KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN.

Conspicuous among the nonresident members are former Vice President Levi P. Morton, J. Pierpont Morgan, A. J. Cassatt, W. Bourke Cockran, Perry Belmont, John E. Drexel, C. S. Fairchild, Hamilton Fish, Henry G. Fryck, L. B. Quigg, Francis P. Green, Clement A. Griscom, Morris K. Jes-

Lewis Nixon, Charles F. Taft, S. Davis Warfield, former Senator Wolcott, George Creighton, Webb and O. H. P. Belmont.

The present Governing Committee has distinguished its administration by failing to elect at least twenty-one candidates for admission. Harry Tawar, the Earl of Yarmouth and several prominent Federal office-holders were thus passed.

The club's constitution provides that members shall be elected by the Governing Committee by ballot. Candidates must be proposed by one permanent member and seconded by another. Names of candidates and their sponsors must be posted in the club at least fourteen days before balloting takes place. The board consists of fifteen members, and no ballot shall be valid unless eight members of the board are present. Two dissenting votes will in any event exclude such candidate.

The by-laws further provide that the proposer and sponsor of a candidate for admission are required to send the Board of Governors letters of recommendation, giving the name and place of residence of the candidate, his profession or occupation, and such statement of his official qualifications as they may deem proper.